

Sermon Series: Colossians

Sermon Text: Colossians 3:1-17 Living in Christ

Because “Christ is all and in all,” you have new life, a new war, new clothes, and a new community.

1) Your new life (3:1-4, 9-10, 12)

- a) Your life with Christ:
 - i) You have died with Christ (v. 3a)
 - ii) You have been raised with Christ (v. 1)
 - iii) Your life is hidden with Christ in God (v. 3b)
 - iv) You will reign with Christ forever (v. 4)
- b) Out with the old, in with the new:
 - i) You have put off the Old Man, Adam, and his practices (v. 9)
 - ii) You have put on the New Man, Jesus, renewed in knowledge after the image of the Creator (v. 10)
- c) Your relation to God in Christ (v. 12b):
 - i) Chosen/Elect—God’s sovereignty in your salvation
 - ii) Holy—consecrated to God
 - iii) Beloved—loved by God
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Living in the knowledge of your union with Christ in His death, resurrection, ascension, present session, and royal appearing.
 - ii) Indicative grounds Imperative

2) Your new war (3:5-9)

- a) Killing the vices of the Old Man (v. 5, 8-9)
 - i) sexual immorality right down to the root of desire (sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, v. 5)
 - ii) covetousness, which is idolatry (v. 5)
 - iii) unrighteous anger (anger, wrath malice, v. 9)
 - iv) evil speech (slander, obscene talk, lies, vv. 9-10)
- b) Remember that God hates sin (“on account of these the wrath of God is coming,” v. 6)
- c) Remember that such sins once dominated your desires (“In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.” v. 7)
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Violent, aggressive mortification.
 - ii) Bunyan’s *Holy War*
 - iii) Owen’s *Mortification of Sin*
 - iv) Fight in the knowledge of your union with Christ. That’s your high-ground.

3) Your new clothes (3:12-15)

- a) Wearing virtues; taking the hill from the enemy, then fortifying that hill against recapture, then beautifying hill as glorious city
 - i) compassion (compassion, kindness, v. 12)

- ii) humility (humility, meekness, v. 12)
- iii) patience (“longsuffering, bearing with one another” vv. 12-13)
- iv) forgiveness (“as the Lord has forgiven you,” v. 13)
- v) LOVE (v. 14)—binds all the virtues as one
- vi) peace (“peace of Christ rule . . . called in one body,” v. 15; also v. 11 “no Greek and Jew . . . slave, free”)
- vii) gratitude (v. 15)

b) **Application:**

- i) Positive righteousness
- ii) What do you wear to church?

4) Your new community (3:16-17)

a) Community of the Word of Christ

- i) “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (v. 16a)—penetrating the surface; saturating every pore; defining every space
- ii) “teaching” (v. 16b)—ongoing instruction
- iii) “admonishing” (v. 16b)—ongoing correction
- iv) “in all wisdom” (v. 16b)—according to Scripture and the character outlined above

b) Community of the Worship of God

- i) “singing psalms and hymns and Spiritual songs” (v. 16c)
- ii) “with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (v. 16d)

c) Community of the Work of New Creation for the Glory of God

- i) “Everything you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus” (v. 17a)
- ii) “giving thanks to God the Father through Him”

d) **Application:**

- i) “one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church” (Nicene Creed)
- ii) I don’t come to the garden alone for a joy that none other has ever known. I come to a garden-city full of the redeemed of the Lord to glorify His reign by our life together.

Doxology: Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.